

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 13, and 15 are amended to clarify the term "laminate." Claim 19 is new.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of Claim 10 representing patentable subject matter. Claim 19 represents claim 10 rewritten in independent form.

The claims stand rejected as follows:

Claims	Rejection
1-9 and 11-18	35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,921,376 (Tweardy et al) in view of U.S. Patent No. Re 34,714 (Burns)
2, 3, 14, and 16	35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,921,376 (Tweardy et al) in view U.S. Patent No. Re 34,714 (Burns) and further in view of U.S. Published Application no. 2005/0101896 (Calabrese)

All rejections are respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent claims 1, 13, and 15 clarify that the laminate has a plurality of layers molded together with adhesive between the layers and comprising a layer of a polymeric sheet material and a layer of a fabric material. None of the references or the hypothetical modification thereof suggested by the Examiner, describe or suggest a cervical collar having such construction.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under Section 103 is respectfully requested.

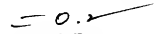
Reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance is requested. In the event this response is not timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for the appropriate extension of time and request that the fee for the extension along with any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper be charged to our **Deposit Account No. 12-2355**.

Application No. 10/784,693

Respectfully submitted,

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